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University of Massachusetts Boston

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The UMass/Boston Friday Report #11

News and information about and for
the Community from the Chancellor's Office

February 14th, 1992

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Fiscal '93 Budget: A Preliminary Look -- Chancellor Sherry H. Penney expressed concern this week to *The Friday Report* about the Weld administration's proposal for level funding in the 1993 higher education budget:

"The current proposal suggests that the implementation of level funding will give the University the same amount of money next year as the campus has this year -- about \$41 million in state appropriations and \$5.6 million in tuition retention.. The appearance of stable funding -- a state of financial balance that the campus desperately needs -- is misleading. Level funding does not take into account additional costs that will certainly occur because of inflation, contractual step increases for the clerical staff, and items like higher fuel and postage charges.

"I also am very concerned about the full tuition retention recommendation in the package. At first glance, full tuition retention sounds as if the University will become master of its own financial fate. Unfortunately, the proposal does not take into account the fiscal penalties the UMass/Boston campus would suffer because of unfunded mandated tuition waivers to which many of our students are entitled. If we do get full tuition retention, the University also must receive 100 percent reimbursement for those waivers. At the moment there is no mention of such a set aside to cover the revenue loss due to waivers. The proposal also calls for rolling fees into the tuition, and that could exacerbate the loss in income to the campus because of the waiver problem. As you know, waivers are not now normally applied to the curriculum fee.

"I must emphasize that because of the steady and dramatic loss of state appropriations in the last few years, the campus has become more like a private university than a state-supported one. This represents a major change in public policy, and it is not one that I support. Unfortunately, as state appropriations erode, we must constantly come up with ways to improve income. This means increasing the flow of external funding such as grants and contracts from public and private sources, and gifts from donors, corporations and foundations. Enrollment is, of course, a primary source of revenue, especially under the new provisions for full tuition retention. Once, not so long ago, our enrollment figures stood at more than 13,000 full- and part-time students. Since then, enrollment has shrunk. Every full-time student represents approximately \$4,000 in revenue, so you can see how enrollment-sensitive we have become.

"I assure the campus that I will work assiduously to protect the University from efforts to shortchange it next year. We must remain an accessible institution of excellence. We face great difficulties in meeting that objective as state support continues to decline. The current fiscal scenario (as pictured in the FY '93 higher education budget) could produce at best a \$2 million deficit for the University. We hope to know more about the issues of full tuition retention and waivers in the months ahead. As soon as we are able to bring the entire financial package for UMass/Boston into clearer focus, I will make its details known to the campus."

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Vandals Strike at Elevators -- At the start of this week, vandals put three campus elevators out of business. On Monday morning, it was discovered that elevator number one in the Quinn administration building had been vandalized. Doors were kicked in and locks, rollers and the safety edge broken. The elevator is being repaired at (OVER)

a cost of \$3,500 and is expected to be back in service today. Also on Monday, the door rollers on the Wheatley freight elevator were found to be broken. Repairs were made and the elevator was back in business by 10 a.m. Three hours later, the Wheatley freight elevator again was out of commission. The doors had been knocked off their tracks. While inspecting the damage, the elevator mechanic reported that someone on another floor was kicking the elevator hoistway doors. Public safety officers were alerted. The elevator may be out of service for two weeks. Late Monday afternoon, the McCormack freight elevator was reported out of service because of vandalism. It was repaired Tuesday morning. According to Vice Chancellor **Jean MacCormack**, police are investigating the incidents. She reports that last year the University spent more than \$25,000 to repair elevators damaged by vandals. There were 25 incidents of elevator vandalism, plus 30 "trouble calls," the majority of which were due to passengers pulling the emergency stop button before leaving elevators. Notes MacCormack: "With the current strains on our budget, these incidents are very costly. There are many more things I would rather have us spend our scarce dollars on." Anyone with information leading to the apprehension of the vandals should call Public Safety at 7-7799.

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University Receives National TRIO Training Grant -- The U.S. Department of Education has given a \$402,728 grant to the Department of Student Educational Support Services (DSESS) to organize a national three-day training workshop in Washington for directors of educational programs that provide students with the academic skills needed to succeed in college and graduate school. The workshop, to be held on April 20-23, will consist of training sessions on educational issues and administrative strategies. About 1700 educators from across the country involved in programs funded under the federal *Higher Education Act of 1965* are expected to attend. The legislation provides funds for a range of federal programs referred to under the umbrella term "TRIO," so named because the legislation originally covered only three initiatives. TRIO has expanded over the years. It now provides support services through several programs for seventh graders to Ph.D. candidates. TRIO programs on the campus include Upward Bound, College Prep, Talent Search, Project REACH, ACCESS, the Mathematics and Science Initiative, and the Ronald E. McNair Post- Baccalaureate Achievement Program. According to DSESS executive director **Alan Clarke**, who is chief coordinator of the Washington workshop, the focus of the sessions will be to explore the educational needs of TRIO students in the year 2000. Several sessions will stress developing approaches to prepare more students for doctoral studies. "The long-term goal of the workshop is to help these programs operate more effectively and better serve their students in the 21st century," Clarke says. Lamar Alexander, U.S. secretary of education; Walter Massey, director of the National Science Foundation; and Chancellor Penney are among those expected to address the workshop.

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Library Exhibit -- The Healey Library is now presenting on the tenth floor a fascinating historical exhibit, "Thompson's Island in Boston Harbor, 1835-1975," that was arranged by archivist **Elizabeth Mock**. It chronicles in rare documents, photographs and publications the story of the educational institution that served disadvantaged Boston youth.